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PRODUCT INFORMATION

DIGITAL LIQUID LAMINATES

Water based clear protective coatings for inkjet vinyl media

UNIVERSAL DIGI CLEAR

Description

Universal Digi Clear is a water based clear that has been formulated to protect and extend the life of digital prints. It is a water white clear that will impart mar and scratch resistance, water resistance and some chemical resistance. It is non- yellowing and contains UV absorbers to improve the outdoor durability of the print.

Use

Universal Digi Clear has been formulated to have excellent adhesion to most ink systems including true solvent, eco solvent, UV cured and latex systems without the need for a primer. It is only suitable for non water sensitive substrates and inks.

Surface Preparation

The success of this product is determined by the level of adhesion to the substrate and ink. Generally, no surface preparation is required, but if the surface is contaminated then the Universal Digi Clear may not wet the surface and cissing (does not form a continuous film or may form beads on the surface) may occur. A second application of the Universal Digi Clear may solve this problem. If cissing occurs, a wipe over with a damp cloth prior to application may help.

It is also important that the ink is completely dry to prevent outgassing. Check with the ink manufacturer for drying specifications.

Application

This product will sometimes bubble on application. This can be caused by the type of substrate, ink system or the method of application.

The best methods of application are spraying, paint pad application or brushing. The laminate is self levelling so it is best to apply on a horizontal surface.

For application with a roller only use the **rolling grade**. This is a higher viscosity and slower drying version that will minimize bubbling and foaming.

Application (cont)

Mix contents before using. Do not shake the bottle – invert or rotate the bottle several times to blend the ingredients. This is very important for Satin and Matt finish.

Pad Applicator – These are made of a fine fabric attached to foam and are available in many different sizes and configurations. Pour the laminate onto the print and spread it over the surface with the applicator. The pad glides over the surface without creating bubbles.

Spraying – HVLP or Conventional. Use a 2 mm fluid tip and 280 – 420 kPa (40-60psi). Apply a light mist coat to seal the print and allow to dry (10 to 20 minutes). Apply one or two medium coats to the desired finish.

Roller – Only use the rolling grade. Use a 4mm nap micro fibre sleeve that is DRY. (residual water in the roller will thin the clear and may cause foaming)
Load the roller to ensure the clear is absorbed completely into the roller fibres.
Use medium pressure and move the roller slowly over the surface in different directions to obtain an even coverage. If cissing occurs, continue to roll over that area until the cissing stops. Lay off with a light pressure roll.

One coat applied at a rate of 16 square metres per litre per coat will give scratch and mar resistance and some solvent resistance, but two coats is required for any UV protection and a higher uniform gloss.

Drying

Do not apply if the temperature is below 10° C or in high humidity.

Under normal drying conditions (low humidity and temperature between 16°C to 24°C) it will be touch dry within 20 minutes and can be recoated after 2 hours.

Allow overnight drying before rolling up prints. This product can be forced air dried.

It will reach full cure after one week.

Viponds Acrylic Retarder can be added to slow the drying and improve the wet edge time in hot weather.

Gloss Level

Universal Digi Clear dries to a gloss finish but the degree of gloss depends on the substrate and the amount of clear applied. A lower gloss finish can be obtained by addition of the Digi Clear Matting Agent. Addition of too much matting agent can reduce the vibrancy of some colours.

The rolling grade is available in gloss and a matt finish.

Thinning and Cleaning

If thinning is required use clean water only. Addition of more than 5% water may cause foaming problems. Clean equipment with water. Methylated spirits will soften Universal Digi Clear and assist clean up.

Availability

10 litre, 4 litre, 1 litre and 500 ml bottles.

Rolling Grade 4 litre and 1 litre.

Testing

The digital print market is continually changing, with new substrates and inks being offered on a regular basis. As the methods and conditions of application and use of this product are beyond control of Vipond's Paints Pty. Ltd., it is recommended that the customer tests the product thoroughly for their own particular application.

The main test is to check adhesion – Universal Digi Clear forms a very tough film and if the adhesion is not satisfactory then the clear can delaminate from the substrate. It is also important to determine the best method of application and film thickness required to achieve the desired properties for the end application.

Call customer service (03)9350 4188 for further information or for the location of your nearest stockist.

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